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## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

### Delivering HSC/E's PSA Targets: progress report at 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter stage 2003-04

#### A Paper by Tony Mulhall

Agreed by Kate Timms on 5 February 2004

#### Issue

1. Report to the Minister on HSC/E's performance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2003-04.

#### Timing

2. Urgent: the next performance review meeting is planned for 25 February 2004.

#### Recommendation

3. That the Commission
  - notes the report and advises the Chair on any issues it wishes to be drawn to the Minister's attention (Annexes are provided for additional information; key points are made in the paper);
  - notes the position with the development of the two Strategic Programme Plans– New Interventions and Local Authorities.

#### Background

4. The current HSC/E Public Service Agreement targets were agreed as part of the Spending Review 2000 and are based on the midpoint of the Revitalising Health and Safety (RHS) targets. HSE has also developed a shadow target to reflect its work to prevent catastrophic accidents in major hazard industries.
5. Performance on delivery is discussed with the Minister at quarterly performance review meetings. The next meeting is planned for 25 February. The papers attached at Annexes A, B and C make up the reporting package for the Minister. This includes assessment of the performance in the priority sector, health and safety hazards and major hazard programmes.
6. The HSC reviewed the performance report at the six-month stage for above the line at its November meeting.

#### Argument

7. Broadly, the positions of the strategic programmes are as follows:

Sector Programme (See Annex 02A)

Overall delivery against planned activities for these programmes are assessed as **green** with the exception of “Government setting an example” which is an amber.

**Construction:** Three surrogate indicators due for report this quarter are above targets; of particular note is the considerable increase in the number of CSCS cards held thereby demonstrating a basic competence in health and safety knowledge. A ‘green/amber light’ is indicative of progress on other areas of activity (some limited delays in progressing some project work due to other demands), but, over the longer term, the Programme is broadly on track. The overall number of fatal injuries to date (provisional) is close to that for last year at this point. A robust enforcement line continues to be taken with the industry using the full range of sanctions. Some pleasing good news stories reported.

**Agriculture** reports the business plan is for the great part on track with proxy indicators giving the required assurance. Operational activity is above target. The report includes many examples of a wide variety of activities being undertaken.

**Health services:** Plans are very largely on track with green traffic lights assigned to the majority of milestones. Work to develop the indicator “Trends in reportable incidents of manual handling” is ongoing/additional indicators continue to be developed. Level of field activity is good, although progress against the Primary Care Trust target is behind schedule (this work is being reviewed for the last quarter.)

**Government setting an example:** Amber assigned. The Programme has made some progress this quarter. The Minister fully supports the programme and will chair a Task Force to assist attaining the programme objectives in March (revised date). The Programme Board has held its first meeting and proposed workstreams and projects are being developed. A revised bid for resources has been submitted. Progress has therefore been made but it is difficult to quantify precisely in the absence of a detailed plan and milestones, which are not expected until at least April. Extra resource has been made available to the Programme team – this will take full effect from the end of March 2004. To maintain the momentum begun in this quarter, the Programme requires significant effort from all parties (both inside and out HSE) in the coming months and HSE will be monitoring developments closely.

Health and safety hazards Programme (See Annex 02B)

Overall delivery is shown as **green** for all topic programmes except workplace transport.

### **Falls from Height**

The Business Plan is progressing well and operational activity has improved over 2002/03; current performance suggests that FOD will over-achieve planned time on the topic. The launch of the CD on Work at Height Regulations (December) has generated significant interest. The guidance on ladder-use has been re-scheduled whilst discussion of research findings is finalised, but this is outweighed by the raising of profile of the topic through the launch of the CD. Performance therefore warrants moving from amber to a green. Other projects are progressing well.

### **Workplace Transport**

Despite good progress on the “raising awareness indicator” and two research reports coming to fruition, plans for the third quarter have been delayed for various reasons (the paper to the HSC on the CD had to make way for more urgent matters and planned conferences about the CD were consequently postponed). Staffing issues have impacted on the programme to date, although extra resource has been made available for the “safe site” work which had fallen slightly behind plan. Bearing in mind the quite significant impact the programme is expected to make on overall

delivery of the "fatal and major injuries " and "days lost" PSA targets, an action plan to set the Programme back on track is being drawn up as a matter of urgency and current resources are being re-prioritised whilst awaiting extra resources to ensure that activity is concentrated onto this important area of work. Performance at this stage cannot warrant a move from amber to a green, so the programme is assigned a red.

## **MSD**

Overall, the MSD Business Plan is on track with almost all milestones met to date. A mixed picture on surrogate indicators; the MSD Inspection Risk Control Indicators (RCIs) show a statistically significant increase in the proportion of duty holders with an aggregate score of 6 or less (good performance) and a statistically significant fall in the proportion of duty holders with an aggregate score of 9 or more (poor). However, the number of Improvement Notices on MSD issued continue to fall (reasons not known at this stage) and hits on the MAC website have fallen. Discussions to select an indicator other than the *RIDDOR manual handling accident figures* are continuing. Notable events during the quarter include agricultural seed suppliers agreement to withdraw use of 50 kg bags for certified seed. The programme team continues understaffed; a B4 was recruited, but the B5 moved to another programme. Any delay in printing the revision of MH guidance would impact on achieving the launch date of 31 March 2004.

## **Stress**

Overall the programme is on track, with increased activity all round. The pilot of the management standards is on the whole progressing to plan and the HSE stress web pages are consistently inside the top 25 favourite HSE pages every month. Q3 has seen an increased level of operational activity and HSE is now on course to achieve approximately 102% of plan by end of year. Practical guidance on stress was launched by the DWP Minister and the Chair in October 2003. Over 500 key stakeholders attended. The event had the fastest ever reported take up of places and was "sold out".

## **Slips and Trips**

Surrogate indicators: there was a small increase of 0.2% on the figure for 2002/03 where slips and trips were discussed during inspections. The rate of service of Improvement Notices has fallen to 3.9 per 1000 inspections (baseline 4.5/1000). However, comparisons of numbers issued are too small (31 compared with 42 last year) to draw meaningful conclusions at this stage. The indicator is intended not to drive enforcement but to indicate the confidence to formally enforce. The programme already anticipated the need to train and build the confidence of inspectors and this is being addressed with pilot training starting in February 2004. 9.1% of aggregate scores were in the worst four categories (compared to 7.4% in 2002/3), ostensibly this suggests that conditions are being assessed more critically, or (less likely) a deterioration in management of the risks. All of the quarterly milestones in the plan are reported achieved. Performance therefore suggests a move from amber to a Green.

## **Major Hazard Industries Programme (See Annex 02C)**

Overall, performance is rated as **amber**. Of the four targets (rail, nuclear, onshore and offshore) two have been assigned amber (rail and offshore) and two green. The new Rail Safety Index developed by the Rail Industry has replaced the rail precursor series. The new Index is off track and amber is assigned this quarter (precautionary pending analysis of several more quarterly reports before a high degree of confidence can be assigned). The offshore indicator (reduction in major and significant hydrocarbon releases) is "amber" because data to date suggests an outturn of 109 against a target of 91.5. Action is being taken as reported. To note: HSE is now in the final phase of development of the major hazards target i.e. finalising trajectories and establishing sensitivities. Fluctuations were to be expected with the indicators currently used; HSE intends to revisit these with a view to proposing a wider range and to look closely at returns to examine whether there is underlying intelligence which could provide additional management information.

## New Interventions / Local Authorities Strategic Programmes

8 Outlines for both Programmes were discussed at the Delivery Board meeting of 29 January. HSE is in the early stages of developing the New Interventions Programme but the proposal centres on the Occupational Health and Safety Support System model currently being developed by HSE and discussed at the HSC meeting of 11 November (Paper HSC/03/142). The model is designed to incorporate a number of elements - including information access points and specialist support - that collectively provide employers and workers, working together, with the support necessary to meet their occupational health and safety needs.

9 Local Authorities : A draft Programme plan has been drawn up. The programme will be jointly managed and developed by HSE and LAs, with a steering group comprising LA elected members and Commissioner(s). The joint Programme Board meets on 16th February to discuss the draft plan, including the question of how LAs' efforts will contribute to the PSA targets. The Programme aims to establish the characteristics and boundaries of a new partnership between HSC/E and LAs which will deliver health and safety improvements relevant to local needs. The Programme will include work on the liaison and support mechanisms (completing the HELA review, realigning the work of LAU and field staff who support the Programme, and considering the need to amend the Enforcement Allocation Regulations); developing the practical support arrangements (such as access to technical expertise, training, and guidance); contributing to the development of the jointly-agreed intervention strategy envisaged in the HSC Strategy; and in the field, concentrating initially on building from and promulgating the good practice of joint working which already exists in many areas.

### **Presentation**

10 The report is in the format agreed with DWP. It is important that these reports give the Minister and DWP confidence that HSC/E are able to deliver on their commitments. Without this confidence HSC/E will have difficulty in achieving a satisfactory outcome to Spending Review 2004.

### **Action**

- 11 The Commission is invited to
- consider the performance report and advise the Chair of any points it wishes to put to the Minister;
  - note the developments with the New Interventions and Local Authorities Strategic Programmes.